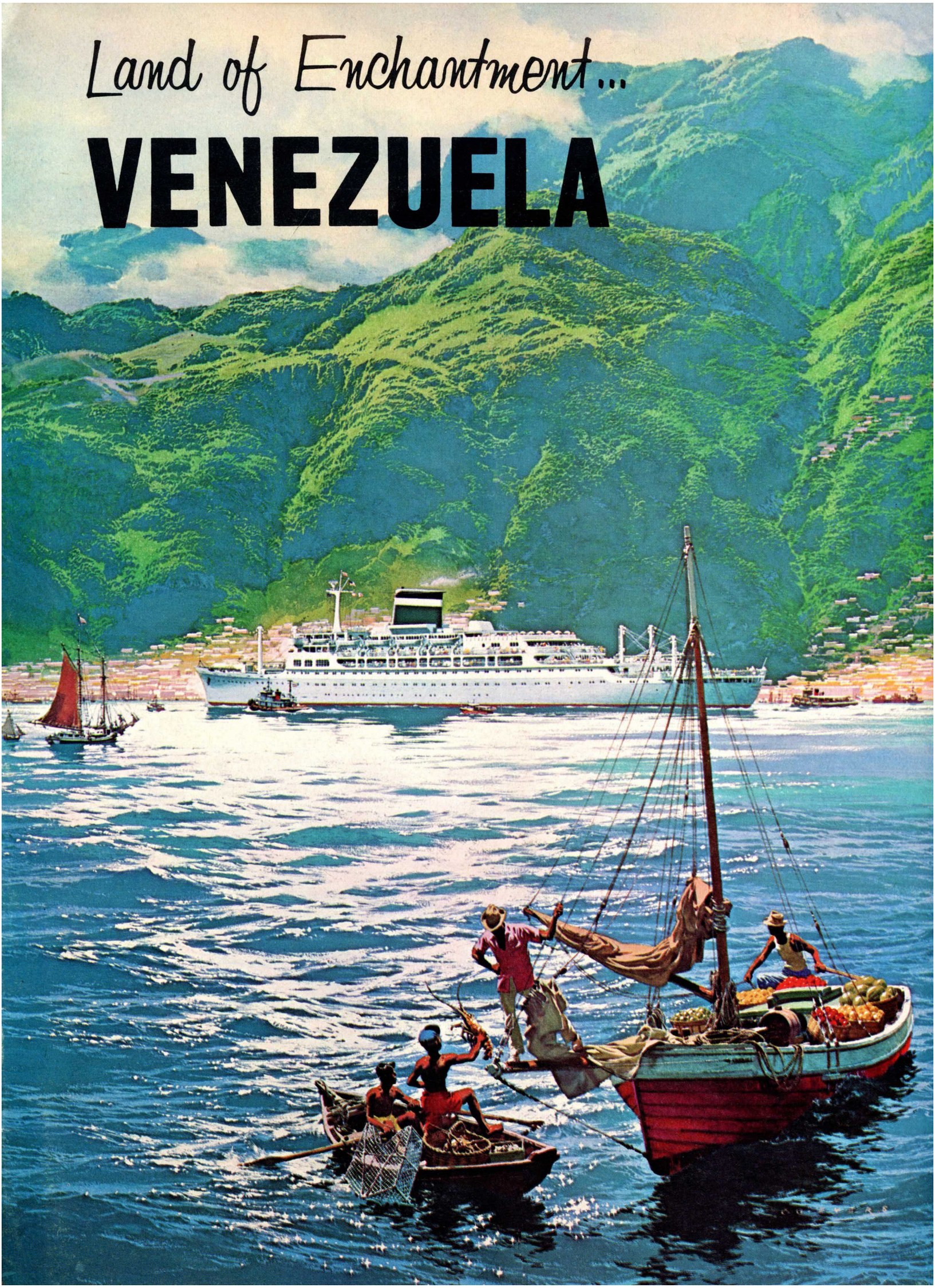
Land of Enchantment...
VENEZUELA

Venezuela is becoming a renowned rendezvous and playground for socialite, sportsman and the knowing vacationer. It has all the essentials: excellent hotels, well developed facilities along its coast for unsurpassed enjoyment of water sports amidst great scenic beauty, a truly cosmopolitan capital, and a variety of fascinating trips to mountains, plains and jungles to whet the appetite of those who think they've run out of places to see.

Venezuela is one of South America's most prosperous nations. As such, she imports much of her needs from the United States, whose business and manufacturing concerns are much in evidence, as are hundreds of retail products. Should anyone whisper about anti-North Americanism here, we'd say that if courteous attention to all tourists' wants is anti-American, then we're all for it. The U.S. community, including families of American and Venezuelan intermarriages, numbers some 50,000.

While we're at it, let's scotch another erroneous impression, that Venezuela's prices are ridiculously high, by merely stating that since the re-valuation of the bolívar several years ago, prices for food and accommodations in Venezula's best restaurants and hotels *are well under ours.*

No country in Latin America, aside from Mexico, has a greater number of outstanding deluxe hotels than those run by the Intercontinental, Sheraton and the National Hotels of Venezuela (Conahotu). Personally, we have never vacationed in anything near the magnificence of the *Macuto Sheraton;* nor have we seen and enjoyed an urban resort hotel like the *Tamanaco*. Both must rate high in any list of the world's best hotels. Conahotu's *Maracay* is smaller but otherwise comparable to the Macuto Sheraton, and the *Del Lago* in Maracaibo is similar in excellence to the Tamanaco. Conahotu's other hotels throughout Venezuela are the last South American word in informal resort living. The stunning *Humboldt,* high above Caracas, has been re-opened.

Another plus factor is the good highway system which makes it possible to reach the various cities and resorts by car as well as plane. Venezuela is definitely one of the countries where it's practicable to drive-yourself. And there's plenty to see: With over 1750 miles of coastline, a 1242 mile long Orinoco River and a thousand other rivers, the frozen Andes and steaming jungles, it's a country of great beauty — and the sixth largest on the continent (about 1½ times the size of Texas).

Because of its mineral and petroleum wealth, Venezuela is one of the richest countries in South America. It has over 8½ million citizens, many of whom are *criloos* of mixed Spanish-Indian blood; there are some pure blooded Indians in the highlands and in the forests west of Lake Maracaibo, and Negroes along the coast. Population growth is 3.6% annually, one of the highest in the world. Since the war, there has been about one million European immigrants.

Venezuela has well-defined zones, and well-developed tours to each, covering every type of scenery and activity under several climatic conditions. The six zones are:

COASTAL ZONES

CENTRAL: Here you find the springtime climate of Caracas and its environs just over the coastal mountains from La Guaira, Macuto and the tropical beaches. Combined with Maracay, this is the core of Venezuelan life, the area most visited and from which all tours originate.

EASTERN: Offers unexcelled vistas of turquoise-blue sea in a moderate tropical climate, an aquatic playground for boating, fishing, skindiving, water skiing. Dramatic ruins of ancient Spanish castles dot rocky shores; near Pampatar, legend has it there's pirates' buried treasure in the *Cueva del Bufón* (Clown's Cave).

There's no more dramatic meetings of the mountains and the sea than along the Venezuelan coast, portrayed in all its enchanting color and romance on the preceding page. Grace Line cruise ships, and many others, make La Guaira a regular port of call.

Cubagua is an interesting island because of the ruins of Nueva Cádiz, founded by Spanish pearl divers in 1550.

Nearby is the picturesque Pearl Isle of Margarita: carefree, informal resort living where you can dive for pearls (with government okay) or do it the easy way and buy 'em, live on the beach and in the water. Discovered by Columbus in 1498, Margarita is famous for its pearls, fishermen and traditions; you'll love the folk music: *El Polo, La Jota, La Malagueña, La Folia,* etc. 1½ hr. flight from Caracas via Cumaná; or drive along the coast to Cumaná and ferry across. Best time is Dec.-March when the pearling fleets sail.

Cumaná, the first Spanish settlement, is both historical and pleasurable. All around are 17th century castles; nearby is San Antonio del Golfo, a sardine fishing town where, at Easter, *La Benedición del Mar* fiesta is held. Cumaná is 529 miles by coastal highway, 1 hr. by air from Caracas.

HOTELS

Cumanagoto in Cumaná, *Belle Vista* in Porlamar (Margarita) are both luxurious, informal beach resorts. *Bahia* (Porlamar) is small, inexpensive, pleasant and comfortable.

WESTERN: This is the prodigious oil producing region of the City of Palms, Maracaibo, the second largest in Venezuela, with its concrete General Rafael Urdaneta Bridge (biggest of its kind — 5.4 miles long, 57 ft. wide) and a forest of oil derricks in Lake Maracaibo. The city is a contrast of new and colonial; scenery round about is not unduly attractive. However, if you're in the mood for Indians, Sinamaica Lagoon has a fascinating assortment of Guajiro huts built on pilings; these canal streets inspired the Spanish to name the country Little Venice. In their ceremonies and festivities, these Indians dance La Chichamaya. Maracaibo is 438 miles by road, 1½ hrs. by air from Caracas.

To the east and on the coastal road to Caracas is Coro, an old colonial city near some ever-changing sand dunes of unusual beauty. From here, the first attempts were made in 1795 to break the Spanish yoke.

Maracaibo has the excellent *Hotel Del Lago,* the smaller but first class *Hotel Detroit*. Coro has another fine Conahotu hotel, *Miranda.*

These, then, are the areas which, from Maracaibo to Cumaná, stretch 722 miles along or within hailing distance of the coast. Basically, from a tourism standpoint, they *are* Venezuela since the Caribbean shores are her greatest glory.

INLAND AREAS

But there are others. Undoubtedly, one of the most entrancing sightseeing excursions anywhere is the cable car ride (the longest, highest in the world) from Mérida in the ANDEAN ZONE at 5385 ft., to 15,867 ft. Mirror Peak — an 8 mile gap with a 10,300 ft. rise in one hour! This is a *must* for anyone with a sound heart and more than a few days to spend in Venezuela. The 3 hour round trip is best taken in the morning, October through June; the car holds 36, rises at a speed of 33 miles per hour. There are four stops enroute, all with breathtaking vistas, wonderful photographic opportunities. It's said there's fine trout fishing in the streams, spotted bear and puma in the mountains. There's skiing on Mirror Peak (June to November) and nearby Bolívar Peak (16,423 ft.), glacier covered and with a huge bust of Bolívar. Mountain climbing is a big sport.

Mérida, founded in 1558 and the capital of the State of Mérida, is charming and situated in a country side noted for its beauty, lake trout fishing, folklore and traditional fiestas. It's 400 miles by road from Caracas, a 2½ hr. flight, and boasts of an alpine-type, deluxe resort hotel, *Prado Rio,* with a lovely view of the overhanging Andes. There are a number of other first class hotels.

Actually, this entire southwestern Andean area is a terrific vacationland. It is reached via the Pan American Highway through Trujillo in the north or southeast from Barinas over the Trans-Andean Highway to Santo Domingo, Mérida, San Cristobal in the

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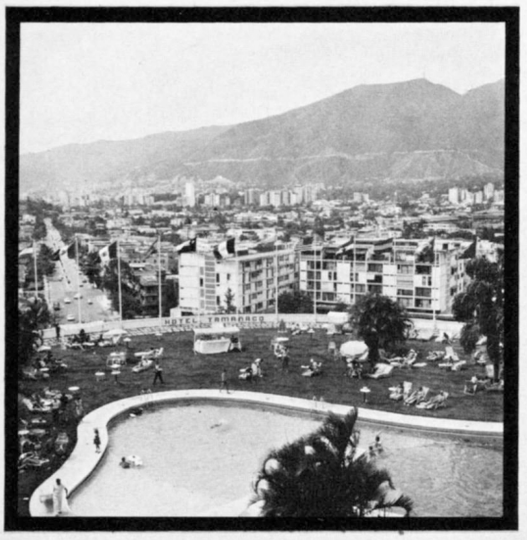


A two-way view of sprawling Caracas is had from the Hotel Tamanaco on the southern side of the valley and the cable car ride to the Humboldt atop Pico Avila, from where you also see the Caribbean coast.

Angel Falls

. . . It has a glory,

naught else can share it.

The first accurate measurements were taken in 1949 by a National Geographic Society expedition. Its main perpendicular drop is 2,648 feet. Coupled with a lower drop of 564 feet, the official total height of the Falls is 3,212 feet . . . making it what many claim to be the eighth wonder of the world.

Angel Falls does not, as do most waterfalls, flow over the top of a precipice. Rather, it gathers its waters underground from a vast 16 x 22 mile plateau, made up of a series of individual prehistoric mesas, to spurt from several crevices two to three hundred feet *below* the edge of Mount Auyantepui, or Devil's Mountain, so-called by local Indians because of the awesome thunderstorms and cloud formations that continuously obscure its fortress-like plateau.

Angel Falls, two and a half times higher than the Empire State Building, well over 15 times higher than Niagara Falls, was accidentally discovered in 1935 by Jimmie Angel, an American aviator/soldier of fortune, while looking for gold. The story goes that a secretive old prospector named McCrackin had hired Angel in 1928, in Panama, for $5,000 to fly him to the Gran Sabana area to find a "stream of gold." Following the old man's directions, they landed on a plateau near Mount Auyantepui, but due to the almost continuous cloud cover, never saw the falls. The prospector left Angel at the landing site and came back shortly with about 20 pounds of gold, subsequently assayed at over $27,000. McCrackin returned to Denver, Colorado, and died in 1930 without revealing the secret location.

The thought of this "El Dorado," however, provoked Jimmie Angel into several subsequent explorative flights. In 1934, he established a base camp close to Auyantepui, where he stored gas and supplies and cleared a rough airstrip. Then, early in 1935, a U.S. engineer named Curry became Angel's angel. On one exploratory flight, Angel caught his first glimpse of the Falls. This expedition ended in disaster when a coral snake hurried Curry to an untimely death.

In 1937, leading his own party, Jimmie returned to the treasure hunt. After abortive attempts to climb to the area he thought he was seeking, he decided to attempt another landing — which resulted in a safe but plane-crashing descent. With him were his wife, Marie, Gustavo Heny, a sportsman, and guide Miguel Delgado. Take-off became an impossibility when the Flamingo aircraft's landing gear stuck in a soft spot, nosed over and tore the left leading edge of a wing.

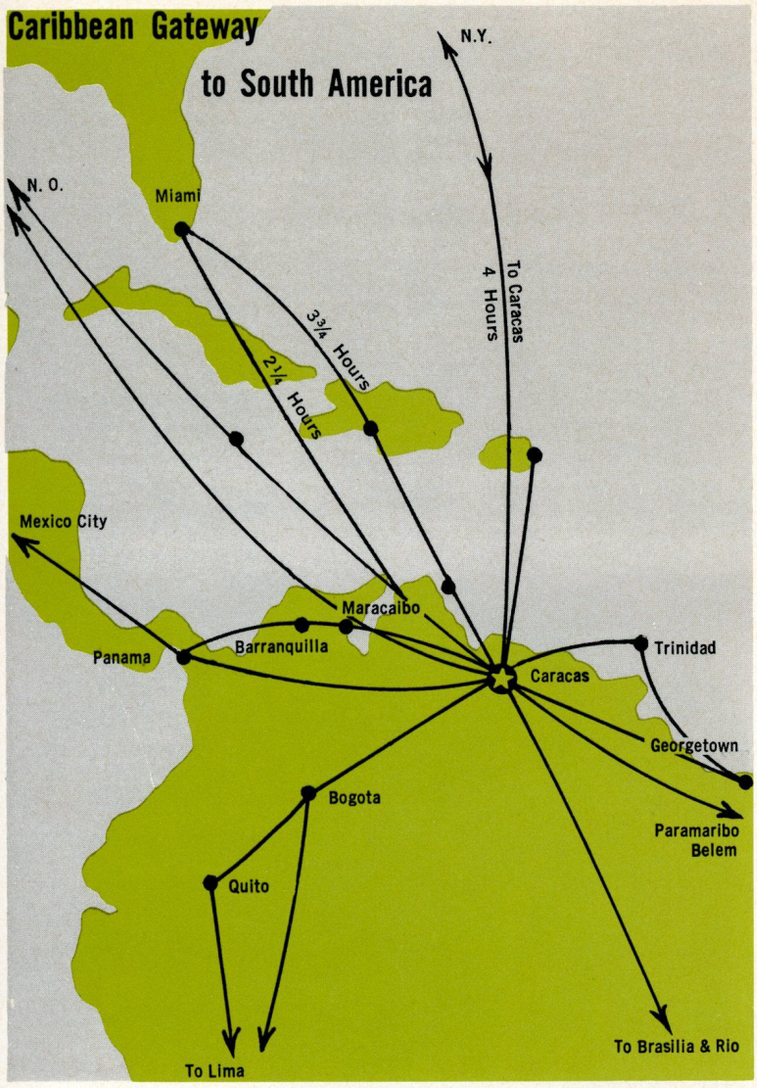
Led by Gustavo Heny, it took them 14 days and nights, under nightmare conditions of terrain and rain, to return 150 miles to their base camp. Though several attempts subsequently were made to retrieve the plane for the Smithsonian Institute, it is still where they left it.

Following this harrowing adventure, stories of "Jimmie's Falls" became more than legend, and in time, led to their being officially named Angel Falls.

Jimmie Angel died in 1959, at the age of 56, in the Canal Zone. In accordance with his wishes, his wife, Marie, who now resides in Santa Barbara, Calif., with sons Jimmie Jr. and Roland, scattered his ashes over the Falls in 1961, adding further drama to an already fascinating story.

For centuries, men have explored the Gran Sabana area for diamonds and gold; today, it is still shrouded in mystery and superstition. The wild landscape of the Falls is so formidable, with sheer drops of 1500 feet, that no one has actually reached the top on foot from any approach, much less climbed the face of Devil's Mountain on the Fall's sheer side. This ascent remains one of the great challenges to the world's mountain climbing fraternity.

However, you can see it from the air on an inexpensive excursion to Canaima Falls. From this picturesque jungle resort with the coral colored sands pictured above, the ruggedly adventurous can pan for gold, hunt diamonds or hike to the base of Angel Falls (four days round trip). The Indians are friendly, interesting.



southwest and the nearby mineral hot springs town of Urena on the Colombian border.

BARINAS, on the savannahs, appeals to sportsmen for there is good bird, duck, small and big game hunting short distances away, plus stream fishing and riding. And although you may have been accused of throwing the bull, you really never have until you learn (which you can) *toras coleados,* the art of throwing a bull by the tail. The rustic ranch style *Hotel Llano Alto* permits roughing it in informal luxury. Same holds true for the chalet-type *Hotel Moruco* at SANTO DOMINGO, 65 miles northwest on the way to Mérida, but in a 7000 ft. alpine setting of great beauty; this hotel has an unusual glass roofed, stone enclosed swimming pool.

TRUJILLO is a 400 year old Andean colonial city of great charm surrounded, at 3300 ft., by many picturesque small towns. It is a 45 minute ride from the airport at Valera, has another fine Conahotu hotel, the *Trujillo.*

SAN CRISTOBAL, a city 170 miles southwest of Mérida, lies at the foot of the Andes at 3000 ft. close to the Colombian border. *Hotel El Tama* is deluxe, as is the *Aguas Calientes* at Urena.

PLAINS ZONE—*Los Llanos* are off the beaten path as far as the average tourist is concerned, but for those interested in hunting and cattle this long central area will prove fascinating. San Fernando de Apure, a 250 mile drive almost due south of Caracas, is another place that appeals to sportsmen; there's everything from ducks and trout to jaguar and crocodile. This is where *Joropo,* the national dance to harp music, was born. *Gran Hotel Apure* is headquarters for fishing and hunting information, guides, etc.; an Apure River trip to observe wild life and the Indians is said to be most fascinating.

SOUTHERN ZONE: This vast, largely unexplored region south of the Orinoco contains highlands (6000 ft.) known as the Grand Savannah, the setting for Arthur Conan Doyle's "Lost World," and Angel Falls. The latter is a 4 hr. flight from Caracas via Ciudad Bolívar and is seen from the air as the plane circles to give many dramatic views, then returns to nearby Canaima where the traveler can stay over the weekend in rustic, tropical lodges on the shores of a rose colored lagoon, with a pink sand beach, formed by seven beautiful cataracts called Hacha Falls; wonderful fishing, swimming, water-skiing, orchid-gathering hikes into the jungle, and visiting a friendly tribe of aboriginal Indians. This is really way, way out.

ORINOCO RIVER: From Ciudad Bolívar, a 5-day steamer trip can be taken up-river to Puerto Ayacucho, the end of the line and a real jungle outpost with wonderful opportunities to photograph the nude Piaroa Indians and observe their unusual customs and homes; tropical birds, monkeys, flowers are all about in a riot of color. Hunting and fishing trips into the heart of the jungle should be arranged in advance.

Ciudad Bolívar itself is a river port with unusual local color; ocean-going steamers crowd the wharves loading the exotic products of the region.

HOW TO GET HERE

BY AIR: From New York to Caracas (Maiquetia Airport on the coast): VIASA (4 hrs.), Pan Am direct jet flights; VIASA via Santo Domingo (5½ hrs.); KLM via Netherlands West Indies; Pan Am from Panama to Maracaibo and Caracas. From Miami via Jamaica, Curacao to Caracas (or Maracaibo-Caracas): VIASA, KLM, Pan Am, Varig. From New Orleans: VIASA and Delta to Maracaibo and Caracas; also from Houston. From Mexico and Panama: VIASA. From San Juan to Caracas: Avianca, Iberia, Pan Am. From Trinidad: LAV, BOAC.

17 Day Round Trip Excursion Fares are now in effect all year, both first class and tourist: as low as $110 from San Juan, $199 Miami, $249 from New York. Caracas, is, of course, connected with frequent service to all major South American cities by practically all major carriers.

From Europe, there's VIASA, Iberia, KLM, Avianca, Alitalia.

BY SEA: Grace Line cruise ships call regularly at La Guaira, the port for Caracas, which is also an important stop for practically all Caribbean cruise lines, as well as many passenger carrying freighters, from New York, Port Everglades, New Orleans and Panama.

DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE

Avensa, Aeropostal have frequent service to all parts of the country; daily to major cities. To Maracaibo is 55 minutes, Mérida 2 hrs., 5 min.; Cumaná 1:05; Porlamar 1:40. Avensa's Friday flight to Canaima and Angel Falls makes a wonderful weekend; return on Sunday afternoon. Aeropostal connects Caracas with Port of Spain (2½ hrs.).

TIME

Eastern Standard + 1 hour.

INFORMATION

Venezuelan Pavilion, World's Fair, New York, where among many interesting exhibits is a three-dimensional replica of Angel Falls . . . constructed so that the viewer is projected into the scene as if at a distance of 5 miles. Permanent Venezuelan Tourist Bureau is at Park Sheraton Hotel, New York (CI 7-7000).

CLIMATE

Tropical at sea level up to 2600 ft. on the coast and plains, in the valleys and the deltas of the Orinoco. Caracas, at 3136 ft., is spring-like the year round; from these moderate temperatures up to the cold of the mountains depends on altitude. Coldest months are Dec.-Feb.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

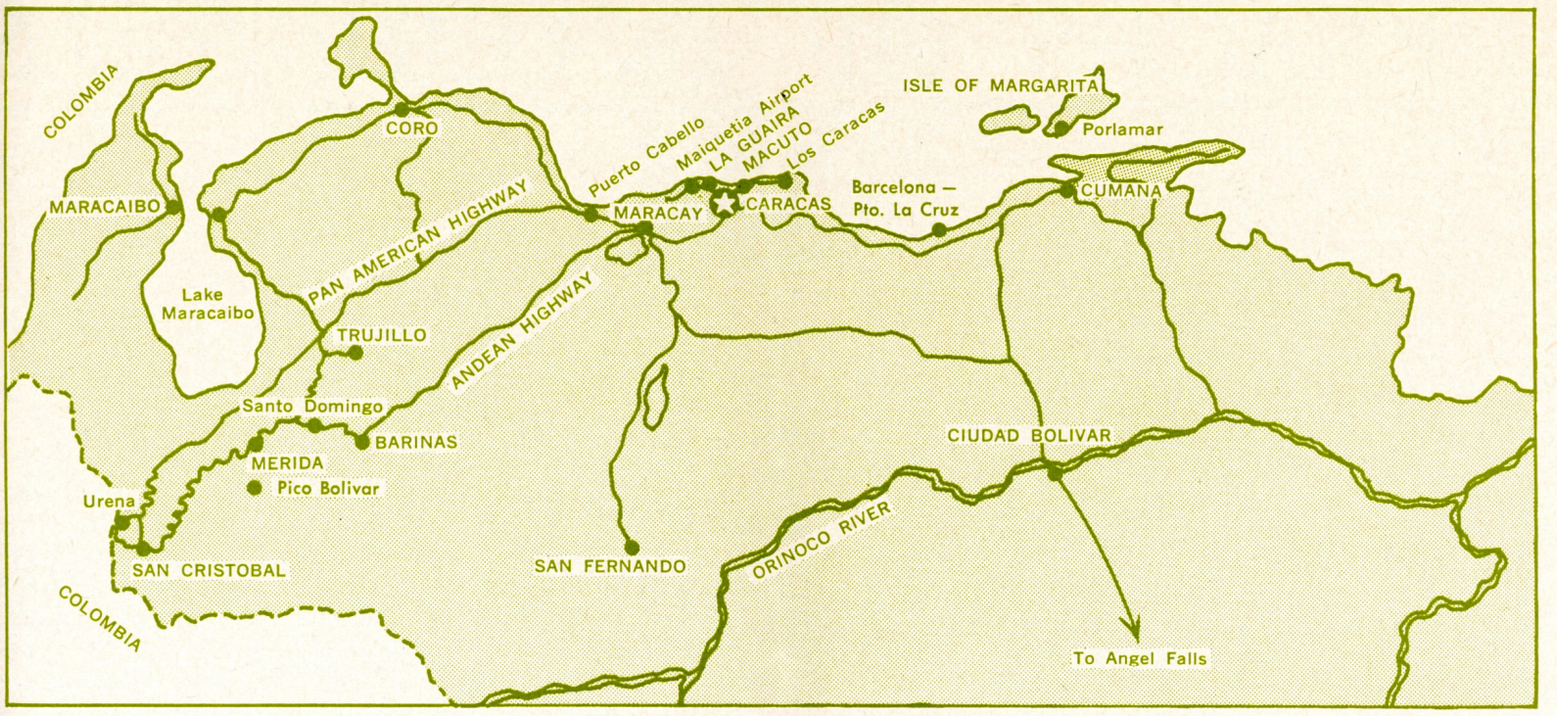
Passport, landing card, tourist card, 4 photos.

CURRENCY

4.5 Bolivars equals $1 or about 22c each. 10, 20, 100 B notes most common. 1, 2, and 5 B coins (marked in Grams: 5, 10 and 50). Also 5, 12½, 25 and 50 centimos coins.

SHOPPING

Cochano, the pure gold still found in far out places, is a specialty of Caracas' jewelry stores. Isle of Margarita is a shopper's dream for natural pearls, mother of pearl artifacts, native straw goods.



CARACAS

Although we vowed no comparisons, we can't resist this one: Los Angeles without smog. Place the Hotel Tamanaco in the Chatsworth foothills of the San Fernando Valley, the Hotel Macuto Sheraton across the Santa Monica Mountains on the beach at Malibu, then drive from the former to the latter (45 minutes or so) by way of the San Diego Freeway, Sunset and the Coast Highway and you have an amazing similarity. At 3100 ft., Caracas is more exhilerating, certainly as vigorous and definitely with far more high rise buildings . . . but it sprawls for miles along its east to west valley and is made up of many widely spaced districts; the coastal range to the north is higher, possibly more dramatic than the the Santa Monica range on the south side of the San Fernando Valley, but on the coastal side it would be difficult to distinguish between the beauties of Caribbean and Pacific mountain vistas and shores.

Spend time wandering around the streets between the twin-towered Center, Plaza Bolívar and the Casa Natal. You'll be intrigued by the contrast of modern and colonial architecture, the mixture of hurly-burly and the leisurely.

Although not a regular tour, hire a car and spend several hours at night seeing the many sections of Caracas, particularly from the surrounding hills. Most rewarding — and in many ways more scenic than during the day.

By no means fail to see Av. de Los Proceres, stunningly floodlighted at night.

We might get some argument, but not too much, if we suggested that city sightseeing is secondary to city loafing and fun-finding. Your only problem might be to decide which super-luxury hotel to use as a base of operations; the solution is simple: plan to stay on the coast *and* in the city, allowing several days for each. Golfing, swimming, night clubbing, etc., are available in both locations.

PLANNED SIGHTSEEING

Because of its excellent hotels and roads, Venezuela has been able to develop well-planned, varied series of eight-day tours to the most interesting sections of the country, any one of which is a pleasant vacation.

CARIBBEAN COAST: Two days each in Caracas, Cumaná, Island of Margarita, Macuto; sightseeing included. Great for those who love a beach holiday and sophistication.

CENTRAL VALLEY: Two days each in Caracas and Macuto, four days sightseeing and relaxing in luxury in Maracay at the *Hotel Maracay* where golfing and horseback riding are excellent. Many sightseeing attractions.

ANDEAN VACATION: Caracas and Macuto plus four days of sightseeing and play in Mérida.

TROPICAL PLAINS: Four unusual days in Barinas on the *Llanos* at the foot of the mountains; horseback riding available. This, with Caracas and Macuto, gives you everything from seashore to inland tropics.

BLACK GOLD: First Caracas, then to Maracaibo, the source of Venezuelan oil wealth, and back to Macuto.

Of course, these can be combined in various ways, including a complete tour of all eight places, for any number of days. Hotels are all deluxe: *Tamanaco, Macuto-Sheraton; Cumanagoto* in Cumaná, *Bella Vista* in Margarita; *Maracay; Prado Río* in Mérida; *Llano Alto* in Barinas, and *Del Lago* in Maracaibo.

In addition, there is the Angel Falls-Canaima air trip previously mentioned.

PRINCIPAL SIGHTS

MOUNT AVILA: Cable car to summit 4000 feet above city, where there is a restaurant, bar, the Hotel Humboldt, and a two-way view that's really something. Second cableway connects the upper station with Macuto, a suburb of La Guaira and the Maiquetia Airport.

PLAZA BOLIVAR: Center of city, containing government buildings and the majestic Cathedral with its many paintings of past and present artists. Municipal band gives concerts (Thur., Sun., and holiday evenings) in square.

CIVIC CENTER SIMON BOLIVAR: Twin skyscrapers with underground shopping arcades. Probably most photographed building in country.

CASA NATAL: Closed Sat. Birthplace of Simon Bolívar. Good example of old Colonial. The Museum (closed Mon.) has largest collection of Bolivarian relics.

PANTHEON: Closed Sundays. This imposing edifice contains tomb of Bolívar and other heroes. Jacket must be worn.

CAPITOL: Historical art gallery with urn containing Declaration of Independence.

SAN FRANCISCO CHURCH: Rich golden altar, wood carved altars, statues and paintings, completed in 1574.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS: 1-7 daily, closed Monday. Sunday 10-1, 3-5:30. Borders Los Caobos Park. Nineteenth century and contemporary Venezuelan artists.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE: Relics of prehistoric inhabitants. Closed Saturday and Monday.

CASA DEL ANAUCO: Colonial building with museum.

UNIVERSITY CITY: Great Hall is masterpiece of modern design.

MILITARY CLUB: Don't miss this Officers' Club; magnificent layout, decor. Excellent for lunch, drinks.

COLONIAL MUSEUM: Wed., Sat., Sun. Beautifully furnished old Spanish colonial home.

TOURS

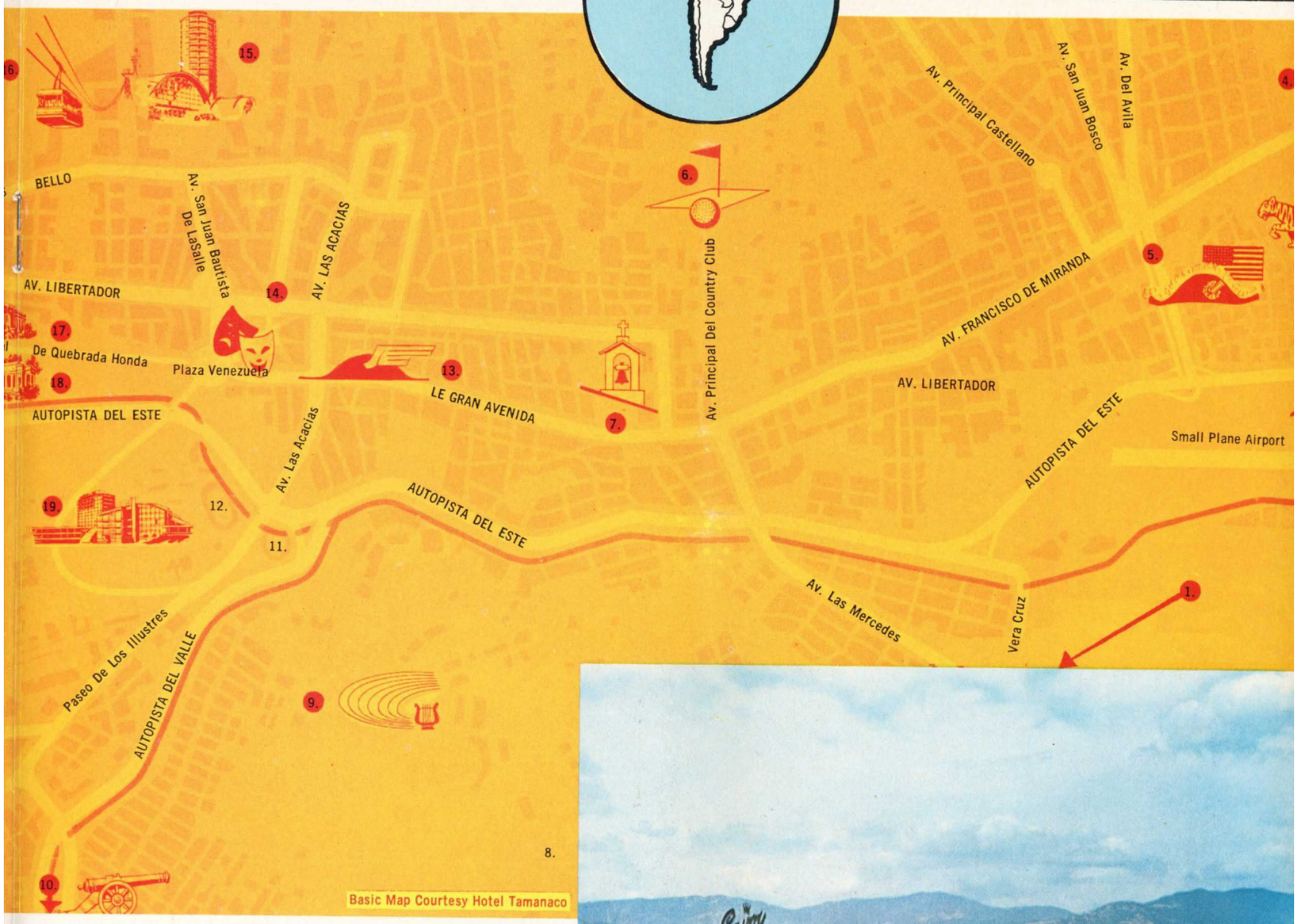
CITY TOUR: Capitol, Bolívar's House and Museum, National Pantheon, Cathedral, Simon Bolívar Center, University City, Military Circle at end of magnificent Los Proceres Park and residential districts. Half day.

EL MOJAN: Short distance to small Indian Village with tiny thatched roof huts connected with each other by narrow bridges that sway and sag. Half day.

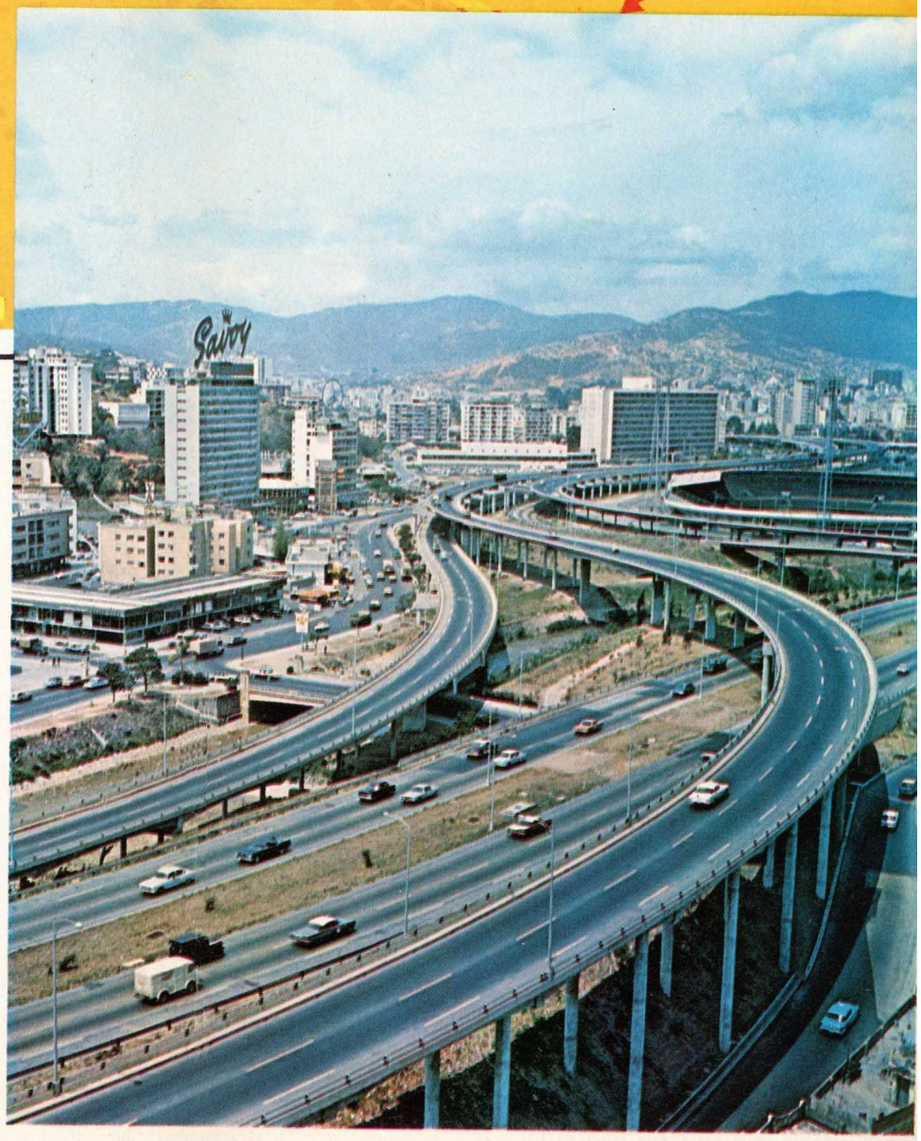
JUNQUITO: Beautiful country drive along the Caribbean shore mountains to Junko Country Club and Junko Golf Club for panoramic views. Half day.

PLACES OF INTEREST IN

CARACAS



1. Tamanaco Hotel
2. Caracas Theatre Club
3. Park of the East
4. Miranda Park
5. U. S. Embassy
6. Caracas Country Club
7. American Church
8. Valle Arriba Golf Club
9. Concert Bowl
10. Officer's Club (Circulo Militar)
11. Baseball Stadium
12. Olympic Stadium
13. Sabana Grande Shopping Center
14. Juana Sujo Theatre
15. Humboldt Hotel on Pico Avila
16. Cable Car
17. Museum of Fine Arts
18. Museum of Natural Sciences
19. University City
20. Nuevo Circo (Arena)
21. Colonial Art Museum
22. Hotel Avila
23. National Pantheon
24. Cathedral
25. Plaza Bolivar
26. Hotel El Conde
27. White Palace
28. Miraflores Palace
29. Simon Bolivar Center
30. City Hall
31. Bolivarian Museum
32. National Theatre
33. Municipal Theatre
34. The Capitol
35. Bolivar's Birthplace
36. La Rinconada Track
37. El Pinar National Park
38. Observatory



This striking Monument de Los Proceres (commemorating the battles and heroes of Venezuela and the old Republic of Gran Colombia) and stunning Paseo are components of the Avenida de Los Proceres, a *must* part of your sightseeing in Caracas, and particularly spectacular at night when fountains dance in the floodlights.

Expressways are not a North American exclusive. Caracas' are extensive; some, like the one from the airport, have been in existence for years.

Simon Bolivar Center is a city in itself with street level and underground arcades which house hundreds of stores. Don't miss wandering around — it's a circus!

LOS TEQUES: Along Pan American Highway; this is where Guaicaipuro, a great Indian Chief, fought the Spanish. See the ferocious *piranha,* flesh eating fish, and 550 volt electric eel in the Humboldt Aquarium tanks. Half day.

EXCURSIONS

LOS CARACAS: Three hour drive along beautiful beaches and residences to Los Caracas vacation resort, built by government. Swim in ocean or pool. Visit Club Puerto Azul. Full day.

COLOMIA TOVAR: An old German village (1840); lunch in the Black Forest Inn in beautiful surroundings. En route can buy pottery made by renowned German artists. Full day.

MARACAY: Exciting, scenic 68 mile Pan Am Highway drive, passing Los Teques enroute. Visit Simón Bolívar's country estate, now the Museo de Armas; also visit Historical Museum. Lunch at fabulous Hotel Maracay; see park and zoo of Las Delicias, former estate of dictator Gómez. Pittier National Park, an authentic rainforest, can also be seen. Full day.

DINING AND DRINKING

Restaurants: *La Cibeles,* seafood; *El Pajaro Gordo,* chicken; *Caruso,* Italian; *Le Saint-Tropez,* French; *Lee Hamilton's,* steak; *Steak House; La Estancia,* steak; *La Belle Epoque,* expensive; *La-Crémaillere; Tony's. Henri IV,* Av. Los Jabillos 35; elegant decor, fine cuisine. *Hector's, Short Horn, Monterey* are all good.

In Macuto: the *Aimara Restaurant* is in an unimposing looking colonial building but marvelous food. Try *Escallop of Beef Lombito* with madeira sauce. Macuto Sheraton dining is excellent, *Sirena Room* stunning. *Carabelleda Country Club* dining in lovely Colonial surroundings is outstanding. Small oysters, clams and fish are delicious.

Drinks at U. S. prices. Macuto Sheraton bars are beautiful and lively; try a *Lover's Delight,* served in a pool-size bowl, or a *Pearl Diver.* Tamanaco's swank inside-outside bar is *the* place in Caracas. For drinks with a fantastic view, ride up to the Humboldt.

Water is perfectly okay.

ENTERTAINMENT

Caracas is a swinging town with plenty of night life. *Naiguatá, Hotel Tamanaco; Hotel Macuto Sheraton; Pasapoga; Mi Vaca y Yo; Montmartre* in Baruta. Bars open till 2 A.M., night clubs 4 A.M. *Municipal Theatre for operas, concerts.*

HOTELS

Center of Caracas' social life, as well they should be:

DeLuxe: *Hotel Tamanaco,* in Las Mercedes, residential sector, about 15 minutes from center of town; superb view of city, large swimming pool with cabanas, indoor and outdoor dining, beautiful bar, pitch and putt golf course, shops. *Hotel Avila* on opposite side in San Bernardino section, is closer to town and near cable car. Colonial style, completely refurnished with beautiful colonial antiques; small pool, quiet spot and also luxurious. *Hotel Humboldt* is reached by cable car; has magnificent view of city and coast.

First Class: *Hotel El Conde,* centrally located, one block from civic center. Air-conditioned.

Last word in hotels is the magnificent *Macuto Sheraton* on the Caribbean, 20 minutes from airport. Reputed cost was 47 million dollars—and it looks it. Just has more of everything. The marble belongs in museums, each floor different. You have a choice of five pools, shops, gorgeous beaches, sailing, fishing, water skiing, golf and tennis and nightly entertainment. Reasonable, too, as are the others.

THINGS TO DO

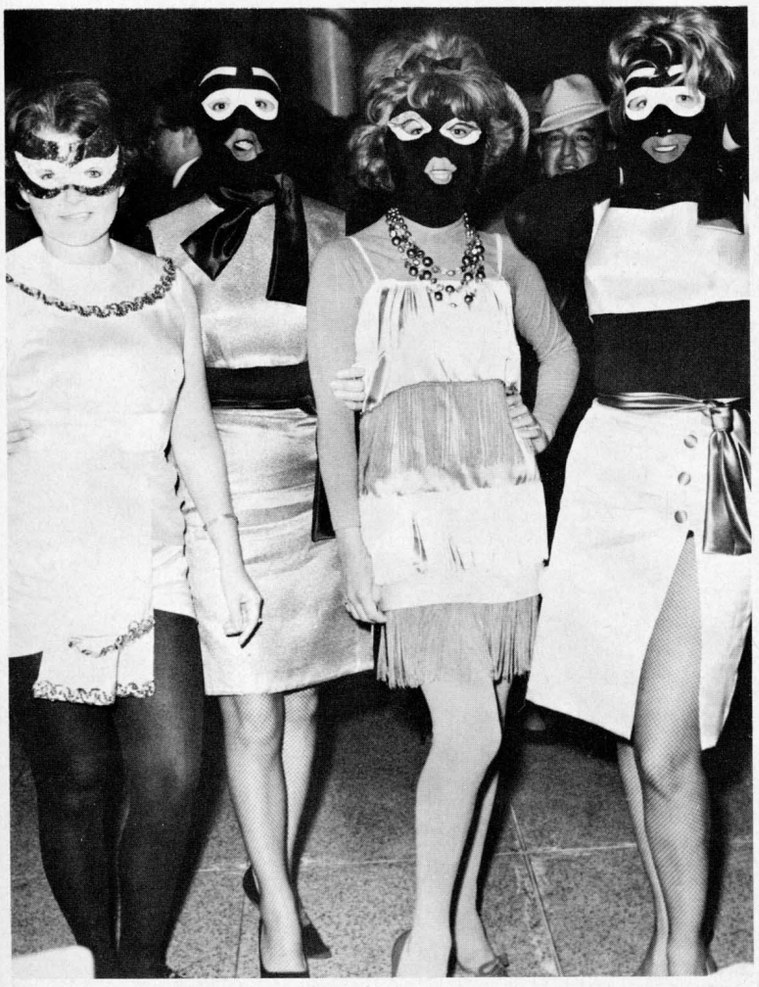
Bullfights: Nov.-Mar. every Sunday.
Golf: Caracas and Lagunitas Country Clubs, Junko Golf Club by invitation. Tamanaco guests can play at Valle Arriba Golf Club (18 holes) all week; Macuto Sheraton guests at Carabelleda Golf and Yacht Club (9 holes) Mon.-Fri. Tennis at Altamira Club.
Fishing: Deep sea tournaments from Feb. to Dec.
Hipodromo La Rinconada: Racing Sat. and Sun. in this elaborate, beautiful and not to be missed track. 12:30-6 p.m. Hotels have complimentary passes to track and Jockey Club; men must wear tie and jacket.
Water Sports: Sailing and yachting regattas, races; skin diving and water skiing events.
Skeet, trap shooting: At *Club Sartenejas,* beautiful private club.
Bowling: (Bolas called Criollas). Venezuelan sport. Different than in the U.S. Can see at private clubs and in country side.
Embassies: U. S., Av. Miranda, La Floresta (336331); Canada, Av. Estancia 10 (324041); Great Britain Av. L. Estancia 10 (338355).
Car Rentals: Fiesta Car Rentals (Hertz); available at Tamanaco or phone 33-49-51.

SHOPPING

Best buys are stunning jewelry (of Venezuelan soft, pure gold) and pearls. Buy latter temporarily strung and *save import duty* on natural (3%) and cultured (5%). If permanently strung, duty is 55% of value. One of the most popular shopping streets is the Sabana Grande. *Walter Peter,* Av. Francisco de Miranda, high styled jewelry. *Tipiven,* Av. Casanova for artifacts; *Joyeria Panchita,* Calle Real de Sabana Grande 98, pure gold articles. The Tourist Bureau's handicraft shop in the Simon Bolivar Center features the best of the nation's crafts. Shopping Hours: 8-12; 2-6.

TRANSPORTATION

30 minutes from Maiquetia Airport to Tamanaco Hotel, about 20 minutes (in opposite direction) to Macuto Sheraton. In Caracas you can take a group cab for 1 bolívar. Cabs have different color markers on top designating parts of city they go to; yellow for Hotel Tamanaco. Taxi Prices from Caracas: La Guaira 35 bolívars, Round Trip 60; Guareras 30; Macuto 40, RT 70; Maracay 70, RT 130; Valencia 90, RT 160; Puerto Cabello 110, RT 190; Maiquetía Airport 30, RT 50. Cabs have rates posted.



When girls and women dress incognito in *negritas* and *mamarrachos,* and overflow the plazas, hotels, restaurants and night clubs — well, then it's Carnival in Caracas.

DEEP SEA FISHING

It will probably come as a surprise to most salt water fishermen that the world record 12 lb. test line sailfish of 85 lbs., the third largest blue marlin of 745 lbs. and a white marlin of 103 lbs. on 20 lb. test have, among hundreds of others, been caught in Venezuelan waters. Many more world records, particularly light tackle which the boats and sportsmen are concentrating on using, will be caught as activity increases along these coasts.

Marlin and sail are the principal fishing targets from the Isle of Margarita west to the Paraguaná Peninsula, both productive grounds. In between there's Cabo Codera (Higueroto Yacht Club), 60 miles east of La Guaira, and Puerto Cabello 70 miles west. But the top area is adjacent to the Port of La Guaira where there is good year-round fishing. June to November is best for white marlin and sail, of which Aug., Sept., Oct. are tops; Nov.-May is the poorest period yet plenty of blue marlin, yellow fin tuna, dolphin, wahoo and barracuda are there; the Blue Marlin Tournament is held in May, though blues are present year round.

During 5 national tournaments in a single year, 599 marlin and sailfish were boated or released by competing anglers. The average for three members of the Anglers Sport Club of Venezuela, fishing weekends and holidays only, is 242 of these fish annually.

The main areas of the central zone are: *La Guaira banks (placeres),* 12 miles north off Cabo Blanco (not to be confused with Peru's) where the airport is; *Carayaca placeres,* 5 miles further west but only 2 to 3 miles out; and *Los Meros banks,* another 10 miles north. Finally, near the Hotel Macuto Sheraton is another productive area overwhelmingly favored by visiting sportsmen because of its superior facilties. During the season, schools of hundreds of marlin are surface feeding at one or more of these banks; double and even triple hookups are numerous at such times.

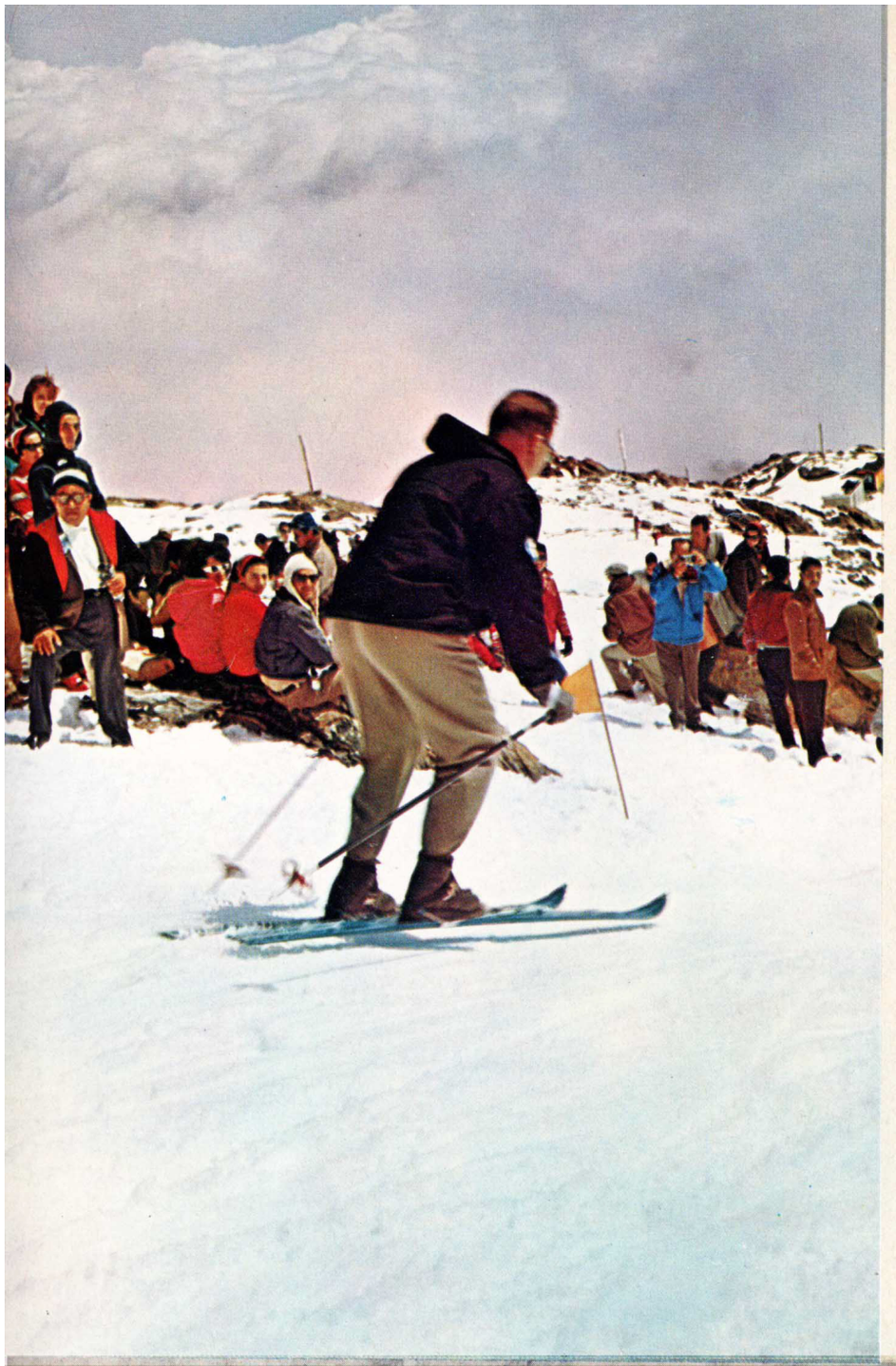
Average weight of white marlin runs 55 to 77 lbs., sailfish 44 to 66 lbs.; blue marlin 189 lbs. (1963 tournament average). There are numerous organized tournaments *(schedules furnished on request; enclose self-addressed, stamped envelope)* for light tackle (12, 20, 30 lb. test line) and heavier in which teams from all over the Americas do and can compete; during the 1963 National Blue Marlin Tournament (50-80 lb. test), a new world record was set of five fish boated in one day by a crew of three fishermen; largest weighed 373 lbs. As many as 21 white marlin have been caught in one day, 17 in 4 hours, by three anglers, of whom one, Rubén Jaén, caught 12 on 20 lb. test line.

Skin diving, water skiing and sailing are other well organized activities with regularly scheduled competitions at the various *Club Nauticos* along the coast. During Carnival week, Star Fleet Championships are held; owners of Star boats from all over the Americas and Europe participate.

TARPON

Anyone hooked by the tarpon habit knows Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela produced, besides oil, the world record monster; however, Venezuelans don't recommend the lake as there are no boats except those belonging to oil companies and other areas are felt to be more productive: Chichiriviche, Pto. La Cruz (October), Cabo Códera, Laguna de Tacarigua, Unare, Piritú and off of Cumaná — to name them from west to east along the Caribbean. Probably no other city except Miami has so many good tarpon grounds as close by as Caracas; Cumaná is recommended to the vacationing angler anxious to tangle with some big ones.

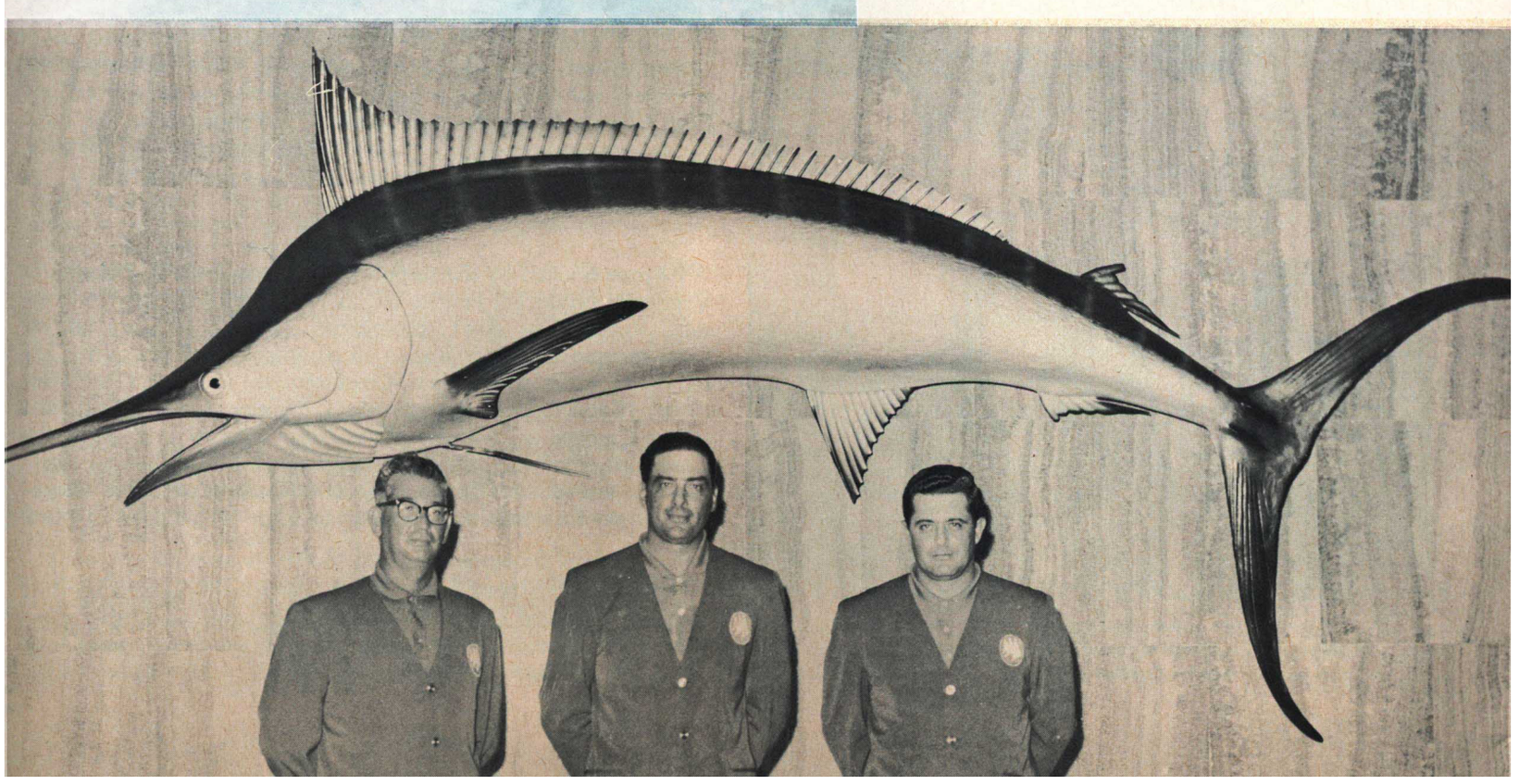
Venezuela boasts of three kinds of wild turkey — black, white and red, unlimited alligator and crocodile, jaguar and other game previously mentioned, all done on the southern plains and Amazon Territory forests.



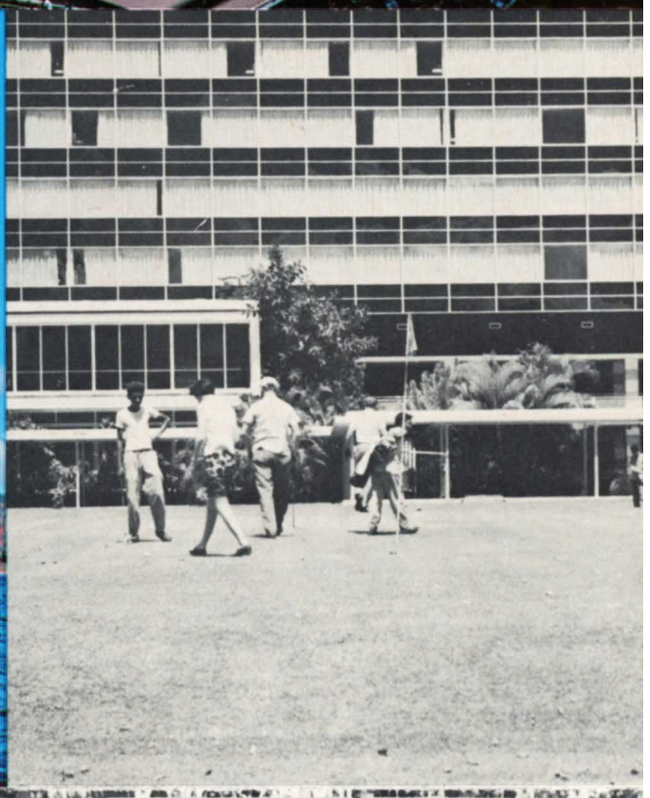
World of Fun . . .

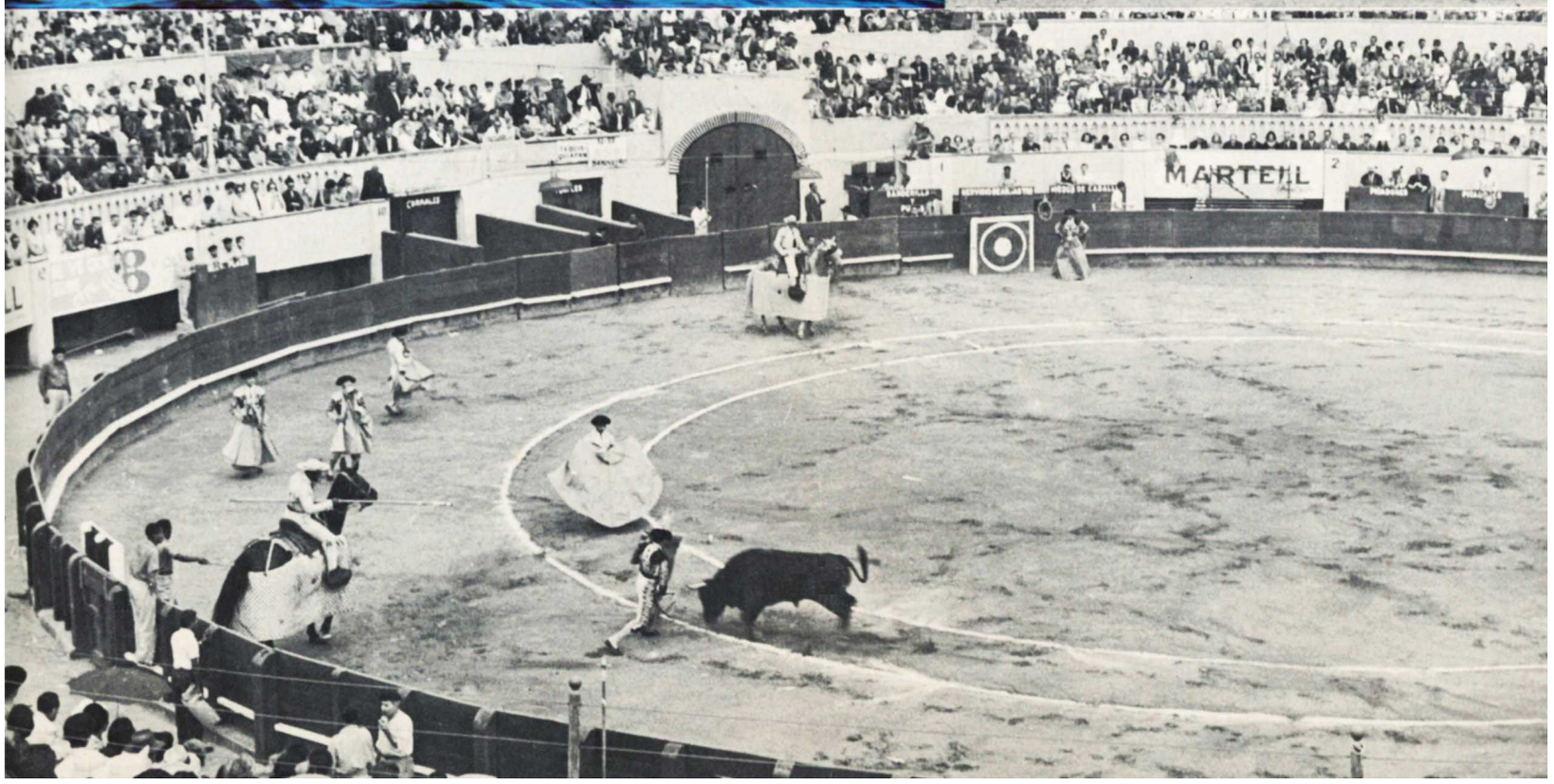
The good things in life,
though not free,
are plentiful

in VENEZUELA



- SKIING
- GOLFING
- FISHING
- HUNTING
- WATER SPORTS





The General Rafael Urdaneta Bridge, over 5 miles long, spans oil-rich Lake Maracaibo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

1st—*New Year's; Paradura del Nino* in Mérida. 6th—*Dia de los Reyes;* this is the day children receive their Christmas presents. 15th—*Día del Maestro.*

FEBRUARY

2nd—*Danza de los Uasallos, Mérida.* 12th— *Día de la Juventud;* 19th—*Carnival.* Grandstands in Plazas. Women wear black leotards *(Negritas).* and put on any kind of costume over them. All you can see is shape of bodies. Costumes called *mamarracho.* This is one time Caracas women (masked) go out by themselves. Men do not wear costumes. Dances and nightclubs jammed as well as country clubs. Everyone goes wild on Tuesday of Carnival. Advisable to stay off streets. For 8 days (Octavita) after Carnival people go dancing. Hotels, clubs, nightclubs bring in special orchestras and shows; as they must also have a Venezuelan band, there's continuous music.

MARCH

10th—*Natalicio del Dr. José Maria Vargas;* 19th—*Día de San José.* Also during March or April, *Nazareno de San Pablo* when the image is carried from the Basilica de Sta. Teresa to the house of Carbone, in Caracas, where it remains to Saturday.

APRIL

14th—*Pan American Day.* 19th—*Declaration of Independence.* 25th—*Diá del Laboratorista.*

MAY

1st—*Labor Day.* 8th—*Día Internacional de la Cruz Roja;* 12th—*Día de la Enfermera;* 15th—*Fiesta de San Isidro, Mérida.* 24th—*Día del Telegrafista.*

JUNE

Corpus Christi—Famous dances of masked, red devils before the church in San Francisco de Yare. 24th—*Battle of Carabobo.* Also *Fiesta de San Juan in* Isla de Margarita (regattas); 29th—*Days of Saints Peter and Paul,* celebrations by musicians, dancers.

JULY

5th—*Independence Day.* 16th—*Fiesta del Carmen;* after religious ceremonies much gaiety. 24th—*Bolívar's Birthday.* 25th—*Día de Caracas.*

AUGUST

15th—*Día de la Asunción.* Fairs, bullfights, musical promenades.

SEPTEMBER

Regattas at Margarita Island.

OCTOBER

12—*Día de la Raza.*

NOVEMBER

1st—*Día de todos los Santos;* 2nd—*Memorial Day.* 18th—*Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Chiquinquira,* Maracaibo. 24th—*Dia de las Naciones Unidas.*

DECEMBER

2nd—*Día Panamericano de la Salud;* 8th—*Immaculada Concepción.* 12th—*Fiesta de San Benito, Mérida.* 16th—*El Patinaje;* and old custom of early morning skating (nine days) in the Parque Los Caobos, Av. La Paz, Caracas. 17—*Muerte de El Libertador.*

25th to 31st—Tremendous celebrations at country clubs, hotels, nightclubs which last 'til early morn. Firecrackers are shot off during the entire week. New Year's Day breakfast at the Hotel Tamanaco from five on is *the* thing. At this time, hear "Las Gaitas" native musicians, groups of young men from Maracaibo. This and a few other special occasions during the year is your only opportunity.

All businesses closed on following: Jan. 1, Apr. 19, May 1, July 5, July 24, Oct. 12, Dec. 25, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday. Some on following: Jan 6th, Jan. 23, Mar. 19, Aug. 15, Nov. 1, Dec. 8, Carnival, Mon. and Tues., Sat. before Easter, Ascension Day, Corpus Christi. In La Guaira, Mar. 10 and P. Cabello on June 24th. Also closed in Maracaibo on Oct. 24th and Nov. 18th. During Holy Week and Christmas. those who can go to beaches and mountains.

SIMON BOLIVAR DOMINATES VENEZUELAN PAVILION AT NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR . . .

And these charming Official Hostesses not only dispense tourist and commercial information but also, as members of a Caracas-based specialized service organization (SEPAC), offer secretarial and translation facilities, make arrangements for conventions and conferences in Venezuela and generally provide the hospitality for which their country is justly famed.

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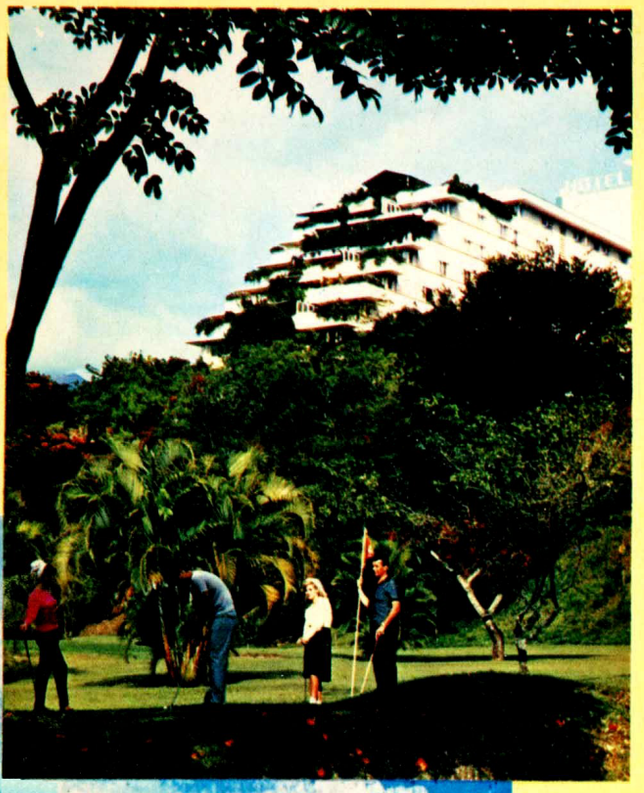
Viasa (Venezuelan International Airways)
to whom we extend our thanks.

LA VIDA GALA

in VENEZUELA



The good things in life, though not free, are plentiful throughout the host of de-luxe city and resort hotels with which all of Venezuela is blessed.

At the Hotel Tamanaco (top) with its sweeping panorama of Caracas, the *Macuto Sheraton* (center) on the gorgeous Caribbean Coast, and further east at Cumana the *Cumanagoto*, you'll find every type of activity.